FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to Semester 2. I hope you all had a relaxing break and enjoyed some quality time with your family. Term 3 is always the busiest term of the year and already we have been extremely busy in analysing the performance of students in the school. Exit levels of senior school students will largely be determined by their efforts this term. We will certainly be doing all that we can to ensure their success.

By now you would have received your child’s Semester 1 Academic Report. This report will give you a great insight into the performance and productivity of your child. I was very pleased to see so many students and their parents at our recent Parent Teacher Interviews. If you were unable to attend and would like feedback on your student’s report please do not hesitate to contact administration to arrange an interview.

We have had a positive response to our updated school Appearance Policy for 2012. Again I appreciate our wider school community contributing to our school and ensuring that we have an Appearance Policy that is current and reflects the values of our school community. To refresh your memory the following updates will be enforced from 2013 and will give all our families the chance to prepare for the new improvements.

1. Students will ONLY be permitted to wear the new school hat – no other hat will be permitted (hats will be available to purchase in December 2012).

2. All skirts must be worn on or just above the knee; any altering (shortening) will not be permitted. Students who alter skirts will need to purchase a new school skirt at their own expense.

3. A new school jumper has been designed and will also be available in December 2012.

I am also pleased to announce that students have designed a new scarf that will be available from 2013. It is very pleasing to see our students supporting our school by proudly wearing the uniform.

Our new building for Year 7 students for 2013 has been started with the site cleared. I am very pleased to report that we will have 11 new classrooms, toilets, a staffroom and state of the art resources. We have worked very hard over the last 6 months ensuring all our students will have the best, latest and greatest in education.

I am also very happy to announce that as part of the Flying Start initiative we have interviewed and appointed four very experienced Junior Secondary teachers. We had over 20 applicants and the quality of these applicants was outstanding. Congratulations to Carolyn Smales, Anke Ockinga, Darlene Harding and Kelly Young who will join the best teaching staff on the Gold Coast here at Southport State High School next year.

I would also like to congratulate Carolyn Swan who was elected the new Secretary of the school’s P&C at our last meeting. Carolyn is a wonderful supporter of Southport State High School and I would personally like to thank her for volunteering to fill this very important position. I know she will do a wonderful job.

In closing I would like to thank you for the continued support of our teachers and our wonderful school. It is pleasing to see so many outstanding achievements and success of our very talented staff and students. In saying this there is so much more to achieve and I look forward to reporting these achievements to you in the newsletters to come.

Mr Steve McLuckie
Principal

Calendar of Events

The following are proposed dates on our school calendar

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<tr>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Junior Drama Fest</td>
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<td>UQ Open Day–St Lucia (Sun 5th)</td>
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<td>Athletics Carnival – Griffith Uni</td>
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PISA is coming to our school!

Our school has been chosen to represent Australia for the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) which is taking place between 30th July and 7th September 2012. A random sample of 15-year-old students will be part of a once in a lifetime opportunity to represent Australia in education!

PISA is an international assessment, occurring every three years, which measures skills in mathematics, science, reading, problem solving and financial literacy at a point when students have almost finished their compulsory schooling. PISA helps to inform policy makers involved with education on how well schools are succeeding in helping students to acquire the skills and knowledge they will need to meet challenges beyond school.

Since the first PISA assessment in 2000, the survey has continued to raise interest amongst educators and policy-makers world-wide. In 2012, Australia will be one of almost 70 countries participating in PISA. More than 800 schools and over 15 000 students will represent our country in this important project.

PISA is part of the National Assessment Program in Australia. Participation in these sample assessments is an obligation for government schools under the National Education Agreement between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories, and an obligation for non-government schools under Commonwealth schools funding legislation and funding agreements for 2009-2012.

What will PISA mean for our school?

Twenty-five students who are randomly selected from our school will be sampled to complete a two-hour paper-based assessment consisting of mathematics, science, financial literacy and reading questions. These students will also be asked to complete a questionnaire.

After the paper-based assessment and questionnaire, a sub-sample of 20 students who participated in the paper-based assessment will also participate in a computer-based assessment of problem solving, mathematical literacy and reading literacy.

Date of Assessment: Aug 16
PISA School Coordinator: Acting Deputy Principal Rachel Cutajar
PISA IT Coordinator: IT HOD Mr Geoff Hodskiss
ACER- PISA Project Information Line: 1800 280 625
GoHealth GoGriffith Experience

On Thursday 28th and Friday the 29th of June some of our Year 10 Biology students travelled to Griffith University to participate in the GoHealth GoGriffith Experience. The program is designed to engage, enthuse, excite and allow the students to experience sessions in biology, physiology, health science, community, medicine, pharmacology, anatomy, molecular biology and clinical skills.

Over the two days the students investigated human anatomy where they were able to dissect a heart, inflate lungs and performed various cardiac assessments using modern equipment. They worked with dentists, geneticists and medical students where they made dental moulds and medicines, extracted DNA and assessed their physical capabilities. A highlight for them was their visit to the nursing school where they learned surgical techniques, cared for patients and finished off with a bed making race!

Our Year 10 students are currently exploring their career options and senior subject selections so this was a great opportunity for them to get some hands on experience in a variety of specialties. The experience by Griffith was very well organised and a great way to spend the last two days of the term. The students and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and the students were great representatives of Southport State High School.

Miss Chantel Rodas
Year 10 Biology Teacher

Upcoming Athletics Carnival Details

Details
- Full school Athletics carnival to be held at Griffith University Wednesday 8 August.
- All students are expected to attend and be involved in some way.
- Whilst the focus of any athletics carnival is to see who is the best, our carnival has a very strong focus on participation. Any student who participates in an event will get points for their house.
- Students can dress in house colours (red, green, blue or yellow) or wear their school uniform. It is not a free dress day and students inappropriately attired will be sent home to change or go back to school.
- House and Colours
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Colour</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A – D</td>
<td>Bribie</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E – L</td>
<td>Karragarra</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M – R</td>
<td>Moreton</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S – Z</td>
<td>Stradbroke</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Venue / Times
- All students must be at the Griffith University Athletics Track by 8.50am for roll marking.
- Students will be dismissed from the venue at 2.50pm.

Food
- Students are able to take their own lunch or buy food at the venue.
Assessment Calendar

The Assessment Calendar for Semester 2 can be found on the school’s website www.southportshs.eq.edu.au. To access The Assessment Calendar go to the Curriculum tab – Testing and Assessment – ‘List all current assessment calendars’.

Maths News

Thank you to Martin Luna (9C) and Robbie Crompton (12H) for compiling the following report.

On the 21st of June this year members of the Year 8 and 9 ACE program attended the Maths Team Challenge at Canterbury College. The purpose of this day was to harness our problem solving skills and apply our mathematical knowledge to real life situations. When we arrived at the College nerves were evident as a large variety of schools were also participating in the challenge.

The day started with a team event in which the groups were given fifteen challenge questions that needed to be solved as a team in forty five minutes. This meant questions needed to be delegated to student’s strengths. Next was the relay event in which only two members of the team were able to answer a question at a time. They had to show their answer to the adjudicator for approval before, if correct, they could attempt the next question or, if incorrect, decide whether to spend more time, for one less point, on the question. There were twenty questions of varying, point’s values, that could be attempted in the sixty minutes available. Students felt engaged under the high pressure stakes.

Despite students not feeling confident upon their arrival, our Year 9 teams finished fourth and fifth out of sixteen teams and the Year 8 students finished eighth out of fifteen teams. Our teachers (Miss Sheehan, Mrs Bowerman, Mr Foreman and Ms Stewart) thought this was an outstanding achievement and were all very proud of us.

Overall the day was enjoyable and students left Canterbury College feeling brain drained, yet accomplished in their efforts.

Ms Christine Stewart
Head of Mathematics

Physics Excursion to Dreamworld

On Monday, 23rd of July, Year 11 physics students went on an excursion to Dreamworld as part of their EEl (Extended Experimental Investigation), a major assessment item in their curriculum.

Students were required to collect data using Pasco data loggers, which they wore inside a special harnessing suit, approved by Dreamworld for use on their rides. Student’s needed to appreciate the forces due to acceleration on these rides, called “g-forces” (gravitational-forces).

When discussing the effects of g-forces on a person who is on a ride, one must consider the duration of the g-force, as well as a multitude of other variables.

To better appreciate the physics of these rides, many trials were required – not one for the faint hearted.

Examples of everyday gravitational forces:

- Just standing, 1.0
- A Sneeze, 2.9
- A Cough, 3.5
- A Slap on back, 4.1
- Plopping down in chair, 10.1

Mr Gunay Kayahan
Physics Teacher
Marine Studies Camp

During May the Year 11 and 12 Marine classes went on camp to South Stradbroke Island. South Stradbroke Island is close but requires boat access. This meant that all the camping equipment and food had to be loaded into the school’s tinny and training vessel the “IBIS”.

Once we arrived, the camp was set up and activities began. During the four days the students learnt how to stand-up paddleboard (SUP), drive a power boat, fish, survive in a bush situation and build a shelter. Students were also educated about the mangroves and coastal engineering projects that exist on South Stradbroke Island.

There were many memorable moments during the four day camp, some of these include the 75cm flat head caught by Fabio Valeri-Formoso, the Master Chef cook off between Jarred Walters and Joseph Farr and the sing-alongs conducted by Shaylor Wells. The camp was a great success and I’m sure all the Year 12’s will remember it for years to come while the Year 11’s will be eagerly awaiting next year’s camp.

Mr David Fine
Marine Teacher

Book Reviews

The Death Cure

A Book Review By Hayden Teremoana, Year 8, Southport State High

“As I look at the walls of solitary confinement, so many thoughts are running through my head,” says Thomas, the main character of the book, The Death Cure.

The Death Cure is the 3rd in a trilogy; the previous two are Maze Runner and The Scorch Trials.

Following the previous book, Thomas has been locked in solitary confinement for 26 days when all of a sudden he is released. He is then told with the rest of the remaining Gladers that there is no cure for the Flare and that Wicked was lying to them. What lengths will Thomas and his friends go to to save the world from future doom?

It took me a while to catch on to this story because I hadn’t read the first two books. I recommend reading them before you read this if you want to get the full story experience.

The Death Cure has an amazing story line and I recommend it to all 12-16 year olds. I wouldn’t recommend it to middle or lower primary students as there are some scary and violent scenes in it. All in all, if you liked the Hunger Games, I would definitely recommend this book. I would stay up to midnight to read it because it’s just too hard to put it down. It’s constant suspense.
The Shiny Guys

A Book Review By Romany Coventon, Year 12, Southport State High

The novel *The Shiny Guys* follows the life of fifteen-year-old Colin Lapsley. His troubles begin after his little sister’s tragic disappearance from a mountain trail under Colin’s care three years ago. When new light is shed on Briony’s cold case, he begins to see the ‘shiny guys’ who want him to pay for the thing he has done. When the shiny guys won’t go away, Colin is then admitted into the psychiatric ward where the story is set. Colin discovers a parallel alien universe, a gentle giant and a girl who seems to see the shiny guys as well.

*The Shiny Guys* is an unusual novel about friendship, and how fantasy and reality can overlap each other. It is uniquely written from Collin’s, Anthea’s and Mango’s perspectives in Ward 44. *The Shiny Guys* is a dark and sometimes funny story with quirky characters and a gripping plot line which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Recommended for older readers in Year 11 or 12.